

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE TECHNICIAN (WILDLIFE)
ASSISTANT DISTRICT SUPERVISOR
GS-0404-07

SJ 410 GS
(MAY 2003)

INTRODUCTION

This position is located in the Wildlife Services (WS) Program, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The assignment involves the performance of duties relating to wildlife management and use of control techniques aimed at controlling wildlife damage, particularly that of predatory animals when they conflict with man's economic interest, health or safety. The work is primarily concerned with damage control operations relating to the cessation, alleviation or mitigation of problems created by carnivores, rodents, birds and other animals in urban or rural environments.

DUTIES

Incumbent is responsible for assisting the District Supervisor in organizing, planning, conducting, and implementing direct control operations within a geographical area. Incumbent controls damage caused by predatory animals and other depredating mammalian and avian species which cause damage to livestock, poultry or crops.

Incumbent conducts field inspections of the workforce by reviewing work performance, adherence to policy and proper conduct of employees.

Incumbent may assist the District Supervisor in the hiring process, including application screening, interviews, new employee orientation, training, scheduling of work projects, and other program management functions. The incumbent supports the Equal Employment Opportunity Program and Affirmative Action Plan in recruitment, selection, advancement opportunities and disciplinary actions.

Must be highly skilled in the use of various available control devices (including firearms) according to laws, policies, regulations and written/verbal instructions. Some states may require incumbent to pass a Certified Applicator examination, as required of persons who use restricted-use pesticides.

Conducts animal damage control activities where there is a demonstrated need consistent with the planned use of any given area and to the extent necessary to prevent or reduce economic loss to property, agriculture or to protect human health and safety.

Incumbent works in close cooperation with Federal, State and other government agencies and organizations and assures to the extent possible that control methods are efficient, selective and based on sound biological and ecological principles.

Instructs employees and private individuals with the most current animal depredation control techniques. Instructs subordinates in the maintenance, repair and safekeeping of tools, firearms, supplies and equipment. This includes the preliminary instructions and training of new personnel on the use of damage control equipment, field responsibilities and other technical aspects of the program

Assists in the negotiation of cooperative agreements from landowners, lessees or administrators to accomplish the goals outlined for the WS program.

May participate in aerial hunting of predators as a gunner or ground crew member in areas where it is authorized by State law.

Prepares and submits routine and special reports regarding daily, weekly or monthly activities, observations, events and other relevant data collected.

FACTORS

KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED BY THE POSITION

Incumbent must have expert knowledge of the habits, characteristics and habitats of a wide variety of avian and mammalian wildlife species. Incumbent must have an in-depth working knowledge of damage characteristics caused by wildlife species and be able to accurately and consistently identify wildlife-caused damage to crops, livestock, property, human health and safety and other concerns. Must be knowledgeable of current damage control or abatement methods and techniques and be able to select the appropriate method for the specific situation.

Must possess a comprehensive knowledge of all damage control techniques (including, but not limited to) predator, rodent and bird control toxicants, techniques, traps, snares and formulating scents and baits that are applied to specific damage control situations.

Must be highly skilled in the use of abatement tools such as leghold and conibear traps, snares, firearms, cage and culvert type live traps, Aldrich foot devices, propane exploders, temporary and permanent electric fence, chemical wildlife repellents, electronic wildlife repellents and other harassment techniques.

A thorough knowledge of, and ability to interpret and apply local, State and Federal regulations, laws, policies, etc., that affect animal damage control operations.

Ability to work and deal effectively with people under varying conditions. Skills in communicating, both orally and in writing, are required.

Outdoor skills are required. A valid State motor vehicle operators or commercial license is required to operate Government owned or leased vehicles.

SUPERVISORY CONTROLS

The incumbent works under the general supervision of the District Supervisor. Incumbent carries out responsibilities independently and is expected to exercise individual initiative and judgment in determining courses of action, work priorities or operational needs. The supervisor may be located a considerable distance and time away from work locations and may not always immediately be available for consultation. Work is reviewed primarily through personal visits, consultations, and deadlines and accomplishments met. The supervisor is available to discuss controversial items or highly sensitive issues

GUIDELINES

Guidelines available are National, Regional and State office policies and guidelines. A WS Policy Manual provides specifics on State and National policy for damage control. Verbal and/or written conversations with the District Supervisor may also be used as guides. Considerable judgment must be used to interpret and apply the most appropriate guide, or combination of guides, applicable to each situation.

COMPLEXITY

The incumbent assists the District Supervisor in coordinating, administering and supervising the work of field personnel in resolving wild animal depredations to livestock, forest and range, human health and safety, wildlife resources and urban and industrial facilities. Certain decisions will have to be made concerning which techniques and methods should be implemented to resolve a wildlife/man conflict. Different conflicts will require different decisions to resolve the situation.

SCOPE AND EFFECT

The activities of this position have a direct impact on the WS program for the state. The incumbent must deal with a number of difficult operational problems, both controversial and complex. These are subject to review and change, if necessary, to respond to the needs and demands of different groups and individuals. Effectiveness and success contributes to the accomplishment of the WS program objectives.

PERSONAL CONTACTS

This position requires frequent contacts with the general public, private owners, local cooperating agencies, State and County officials, citizen's groups or associations, adjacent landowners or residents, as well as other WS officials.

PURPOSE OF CONTACTS

Contacts are for the purpose of coordinating the WS program activities and objectives for the District which involves gathering data, exchanging information, obtaining cooperation and/or resolving problems and negotiating for local agreements. Contacts are also to advise the public of the work being done, particularly if there is a potential for accidents to humans or domestic animals.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The work requires some physical exertion such as walking over wet, rough or uneven surfaces, lifting, bending, crouching, stooping, stretching, reaching, climbing or similar activities. Agility and dexterity are required.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

There is regular and recurring exposure to moderate risk and discomfort, such as toxic materials, adverse weather conditions, and noisy environments associated with remote or isolated areas.